Appl. No. 09/900,370 Amdt. Dated March 16, 2004

Reply to Office action of December 24, 2003





IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.

09/900,370

Confirmation No. :6021

Applicant

Noboru Takada

Filed

July 6, 2001

TC/AU

2615

Examiner:

Tia M. Harris

Docket No. :

33781

Customer No.:

116

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MAR 2 2 2004

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2600

AMENDMENT "A"

Sir:

By this amendment, twenty-one total claims are now pending in this application which include five independent claims. A check in the amount of \$190 is enclosed to cover the fee for one total claim in excess of twenty and two total independent claims in excess of three.

In response to the Office action of December 24, 2003, paper no. 6, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

03/19/2004 HVUDNG1 00000016 09900370

01 FC:1201 02 FC:1202 172.00 OP 18.00 OP I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

gbert F. Bodi

03-16-2003

Date

Signature of Attorney

Attorney for Applicant

Name